

STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

EASTERN REGION HEADQUARTERS • OPERATIONS DIVISION

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April 24, 2007

RECEIVED

Ms Elizabeth Phinney WSDOT Rail Office PO Box 47407 Olympia WA 98504-7407 APR 3 0 2007 WSDOT RAIL OFFICE

RE: Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project

Dear Ms Phinney:

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (WSPRC) has no resources that will be affected by this project.

WSPRC does not have jurisdiction over any permits or approvals that will affect the project.

WSPRC would strongly encourage project proponents to coordinate with staff from Grant County and the City of Moses Lake regarding potential cooperative efforts to develop Rails with Trails, which may enhance the regional trail system in that area. Improved non-motorized transportation corridors, and additional recreation that supports healthy lifestyles, would certainly be positive environmental impacts.

Thanks for considering these comments.

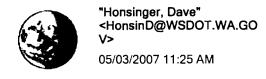
Sincerely,

Jim Harris

Region Manager

Cc: Bill Koss, Planning Program, manager

Mark Gillespie, Parks Development Region Manager



bcc

Subject Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project

This email is in response to the April 2, 2007 letter from Victoria Ruston in regards to the beginning of the environmental review for the proposed rail improvement and expansion project in the Moses Lake, Washington area.

I apologize for not making your requested response date of May 2, 2007.

Regionally, WSDOT - North Central Region does not foresee any significant environmental effects that could not be either avoided or mitigated. We assume you will proceed with the standard environmental review process which will address the areas of cultural, historical, and biological issues that will be along any proposed routes. We do not foresee any negative impacts to the highway transportation system from the initial proposed routes. There could be positive impacts if any at-grade highway and railroad crossings could be eliminated.

Please keep me posted and updated on your environmental review.

Dave Honsinger

North Central Region: Transportation Planning Manager / Assistant Program Manager WA State Dept. of Transportation 1551 N. Wenatchee Avenue Wenatchee, WA 98801

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"Drecksel, Ken - Ephrata, WA" <ken.drecksel@wa.usda.gov

To <christa.dean@stb.dot.gov>

c**c** bcc

05/30/2007 05:53 PM

Subject Farmland Protection Act information

Hi Christa,

You will find Farmland Protection Policy Act information at the following web address:

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/fppa

If you scroll to the bottom of the page you will find the link to AD1006 and instructions. Once you have completed your part of this form, please forward to me and I will complete NRCS responsibilities. I will need maps with details on alternative routes for the proposed rail lines in the Moses Lake, WA area.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Kenneth Drecksel NRCS Central Area Resource Soil Scientist USDA NRCS 2145 Basin Street SW, Suite D Ephrata, WA 98823-9451 Email: Ken.Drecksel@wa.usda.gov

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